

Kabul embassy's safety is top priority

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — As the end to America's "forever war" rapidly approaches, the U.S. Embassy and other diplomatic missions in Kabul are watching a worsening security situation and looking at how to respond.

In the countryside, districts are falling to the Taliban in rapid succession. America's warlord allies are re-arming their militias, which have a violent history, raising the specter of another civil war once the U.S. withdrawal is finished, expected in August.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson told The Associated Press that security assessments are frequent these days. Speaking on condition of anonymity in line with briefing rules, she said the embassy is currently down to 1,400 U.S. citizens and about 4,000 staff working inside the compound the size of a small town.

A well-fortified town, that is. Besides its own formidable security, the embassy lies inside Kabul's Green Zone, where entire neighborhoods have been closed off and giant blast walls line streets closed to outside traffic. Afghan security forces guard the barricades in-

to the district, which also houses the Presidential Palace, other embassies and senior government officials.

The only route out is Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport, currently protected by U.S. and Turkish troops. Before America can declare its war over, the security of the airport will have to be settled. Ankara is in talks with Washington, the United Nations and the Afghan government to decide who will protect the airport and who will foot the bill.

For now, the airport is running without interruption, except for restrictions imposed by a deadly third COVID-19 surge that has prompted some countries to suspend flights to Kabul. India, however, is not one of them — as many as eight flights arrive weekly from India — and as a result, the virus's delta variant, first identified in India, is rampant in Afghanistan.

In Kabul, it's common to hear speculation about when and if the U.S. Embassy will evacuate and shut down, with images resurrected of America's last days in Saigon at the end of the Vietnam war.

Already, long before the last U.S. and NATO troops began packing to leave, American diplomats arriving at the airport were taken to the heavily fortified U.S. Embassy by helicopter. The 4-mile road trip through Kabul's chaotic traffic was considered too dangerous.

Suicide bombers struck along that road with uncomfortable frequency.

For many of Washington's new diplomats to Afghanistan, their view of the country and Kabul is limited to what they see from the confines of the sprawling embassy compound, hidden deep inside the Green Zone and protected by 10-foot blast walls, heavily armed U.S. Marines, explosive-sniffing dogs and cameras at every corner.

An American employee of Resolute Support, the name of NATO's military mission in Afghanistan, who arrived in the country last November, had not been outside the giant gates of the mission by June.

Citing security concerns, the U.S. spokesperson said she couldn't reveal evacuation plans, or even if that's a part of today's conversation, but said the embassy has detailed plans for every scenario to protect its staff.

Chronic pain plagues US military, report finds

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Many service members are in constant pain and the military medical system needs to better identify effective treatments to help them cope, says a new study that found chronic pain as the main factor leading to disability for those on active duty.

Between 31% and 44% of active-duty service members suffer from chronic pain, the nonpartisan Rand Corp. said in a study that examined how the military health system deals with the issue.

While the Defense Department has invested heavily and made strides in treating chronic pain, expanding efforts to track how service members are doing after they receive care would be a step forward, Rand said.

"Accurately measuring the quality of pain treatment is an essential step toward im-

proving care," it said.

By better understanding treatment outcomes, the Pentagon could spend money more wisely. This would ultimately "enhance the military readiness of service members with chronic pain," the report said.

Chronic pain has long been an uncomfortable fact of life for many troops. It is far more prevalent within the military than the civilian world, where roughly 20% of the population experiences some form of the condition, according to prior research cited by the Rand report.

"The substantially higher prevalence of pain among service members has been attributed to a high rate of injuries from deployments, the mental and physical demands of military service, and a possible tendency to delay care-seeking for painful conditions," said the report by the research group, which

works closely with the Pentagon.

Back pain and joint disorders are the most common types of chronic pain experienced by troops.

The Rand study cited U.S. Army data suggesting that musculoskeletal pain — generally back and joint injuries — accounted for nearly 60% of limited duty days and was the reason why 65% of soldiers were medically unable to deploy.

Service members also experience more complex pain syndromes given unique occupational hazards associated with deployments, such as blast injuries that can cause a range of wounds, including traumatic brain injury.

"Chronic pain is understudied relative to its high prevalence and impact on health and well-being. Thus, evidence identifying effective therapies is limited, although it is emerging," the report said.

US quietly left Bagram during the night

Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The U.S. left Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield after nearly 20 years by shutting off the electricity and slipping away in the night without notifying the base's new Afghan commander, who discovered the Americans' departure more than two hours after they left, Afghan military officials said.

Afghanistan's army showed off the sprawling air base Monday, providing a rare first glimpse of what had been the epicenter of America's war to unseat the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaida perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks on America.

The U.S. announced Friday it had completely vacated its biggest airfield in the country in advance of a final withdrawal the Pentagon says will be completed by the end of August.

"We (heard) some rumor that the Americans had left Bagram ... and finally by seven o'clock in the morning, we under-

stood that it was confirmed that they had already left Bagram," said Gen. Mir Asadullah Kohistani, Bagram's new commander.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Sonny Leggett did not address the specific complaints of many Afghan soldiers who inherited the abandoned airfield, instead referring to a statement last week.

The statement said the handover of the many bases had been in the process soon after President Joe Biden's mid-April announcement that America was withdrawing the last of its forces. Leggett said in the statement that they had coordinated their departures with Afghanistan's leaders.

Before the Afghan army could take control of the airfield about an hour's drive from the Afghan capital Kabul, it was invaded by a small army of looters, who ransacked barrack after barrack and rummaged through giant storage tents before being evicted, according to Afghan mil-

itary officials.

Kohistani insisted the Afghan National Security and Defense Force could hold on to the heavily fortified base despite a string of Taliban wins on the battlefield. The airfield also includes a prison with about 5,000 prisoners, many of them allegedly Taliban.

The last U.S. soldiers are likely to remain until an agreement to protect the Kabul Hamid Karzai International Airport, which is expected to be done by Turkey, is completed.

Afghan soldiers who wandered Monday throughout the base that had once seen as many as 100,000 U.S. troops were deeply critical of how the U.S. left Bagram.

"In one night, they lost all the goodwill of 20 years by leaving the way they did, in the night, without telling the Afghan soldiers who were outside patrolling the area," said Afghan soldier Naematullah, who asked that only his one name be used.

CENTCOM: Afghanistan withdrawal 90% complete

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The United States has completed "more than 90%" of its withdrawal from Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command said in a statement Tuesday.

The statement follows the announcement last week that U.S. and coalition forces had left Bagram Airfield, which for nearly 20 years was the largest U.S. base in the country.

CENTCOM did not say how many U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan. Between 2,500 and 3,500 were in the country when President Joe Biden announced in April that all U.S. forces would withdraw by Sept. 11.

The U.S. has handed over seven facilities to the Afghan Defense Ministry, CENTCOM said in the statement. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said last week that Bagram was one of

the last bases left but that the U.S. military still has facilities in Kabul.

The military has pulled out material equaling 984 C-17 cargo plane loads and handed over more than 17,000 pieces of equipment, mostly excess personal property, to the Defense Logistics Agency for disposition. Most of those items aren't considered "major equipment," the statement said.

Millions more items are being left behind. Bagram's new Afghan commander said last week that the U.S. left some 3.5 million items, ranging from bottles of water to civilian trucks and armored vehicles. The Associated Press reported after a visit to the base.

The U.S. withdrawal is expected to be completed by the end of August, officials have said.

US women's Olympic softball team arrives at Iwakuni

BY JONATHAN SNYDER

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The U.S. women's Olympic softball team has arrived at this Marine base in Yamaguchi prefecture for training and exhibition games against local teams ahead of the Tokyo Games this month.

An entourage of about 18 people stepped into the lobby of Iwakuni airport, which shares a runway with the Marine base, on Monday afternoon, waving to a small crowd and media while adhering to social distancing.

Japan has carved out restrictions for Olympic athletes that preclude them from the usual 14-day quarantine expected of most arriving foreigners, but that also prevents them from mingling with most residents of Japan.

The softball team will soon be joined at MCAS Iwakuni by the U.S. fencing team, which is scheduled to arrive around July 13 and train until July 19 at the Atago Sports Complex's Lotus Culture Center Arena.

The Olympians will stay at the on-base Kintai Inn until July 14.

MCAS Iwakuni commander Col. Lance Lewis greeted the athletes Monday.

"Being able to partner with the city of Iwakuni and to be able to host the U.S. Olympic women's softball team is truly an honor and a privilege," he said at the press conference. "On behalf of all the Marines, sailors and family members who live and work aboard MCAS Iwakuni, welcome again and best of luck when you go for gold!"

The Olympics begins July 23 with closing ceremonies Aug. 8.

Tropical Storm Elsa builds strength, hits Keys

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The weather was getting worse in southern Florida on Tuesday morning as Tropical Storm Elsa began lashing the Florida Keys, complicating the search for survivors in the condo collapse and prompting a hurricane watch for the peninsula's upper Gulf Coast.

In addition to damaging winds and heavy rains, the Miami-based U.S. National Hurricane Center warned of life-threatening storm surges, flooding and isolated tornadoes. A hurricane watch was issued for a long stretch of coastline, from Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay to the Steinhatchee River in Florida's Big Bend area.

The Tampa area is highly vulnerable to storm surge because the offshore waters

and Tampa Bay are quite shallow, experts say.

But on the barrier island beach towns along the Gulf Coast, it was largely business as usual with few shutters or plywood boards going up. Free sandbags were being handed out at several locations, and a limited number of storm shelters opened Tuesday morning in at least four counties around the Tampa Bay area, although no evacuations have been ordered.

Nancy Brindley, 85, who lives in a seaside house built in 1923, said she has experienced 34 previous tropical cyclones and is not having shutters put on her windows. Her main concern is what will happen to sand on the adjacent beach and the dunes that protect her house and others. She's

staying through the storm.

"The main concern here is, if it doesn't speed up and decides to stall, there will be enormous erosion," she said.

Friends Chris Wirtz, 47, and Brendan Peregrine, 44, were staying put at a beachfront inn with their families. Both are from Tampa, about 25 miles across the bay and have been through storms many times.

"Before we left, we knew it was coming," Wirtz said.

Peregrine said the two families had been coming to the Pinellas County beach for 10 years. He noted they have ample supplies and a charcoal grill to cook on if the power goes out.

Elsa's maximum sustained winds stood at 60 mph early Tuesday.

Crews find 4 more victims in rubble of collapsed condo

Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — The discovery of four more victims in the rubble of a collapsed Florida condominium building raised the death toll to 32, officials said Tuesday, as a ramped-up search effort faced new threats from severe weather with Tropical Storm Elsa.

Lightning forced rescuers to pause their work for two hours early Tuesday, Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said. And stiff winds of 20 mph with stronger gusts hampered efforts to move heavy debris with cranes, officials said at a morning news conference.

"Active search and rescue continued throughout the night, and these teams continue through extremely adverse and challenging conditions," Miami-Dade County

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told reporters. "Through the rain and through the wind, they have continued searching."

Up to 113 people remain unaccounted for, though only 70 of those are confirmed to have been inside the Champlain Towers South building in Surfside when it collapsed in the early morning hours of June 24, she said.

At the disaster site Tuesday morning, power saws and backhoes could be heard as workers in yellow helmets and blue jumpsuits searched the rubble for a 13th day. Gray clouds from Elsa's outer bands swirled above.

The storm's worst weather was expected to bypass Surfside and neighboring Miami as Elsa strengthened before making landfall somewhere between Tampa Bay and Florida's Big Bend and crossing northern Flor-

ida. Heavy rain from the storm was still possible.

Search crews can work through rain, but lightning from unrelated thunderstorms has forced them to pause at times, and a garage area in the rubble has filled with water, officials said.

"We're actively searching as aggressively as we can," Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said.

Crews have removed 124 tons of debris from the collapse site. As search crews have pulled more bodies from the rubble, they have detected no new signs of survivors, Cominsky said.

"We are not seeing anything positive," he said.

No one has been rescued alive since the first hours after the collapse.

Hunt for Capitol attackers is still on 6 months later

Associated Press

The first waves of arrests in the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol focused on the easy targets. Dozens in the pro-Trump mob openly bragged about their actions on Jan. 6 on social media and were captured in shocking footage broadcast live by national news outlets.

But six months after the riot, the Justice Department is still hunting for scores of rioters, even as the first of more than 500 people already arrested have pleaded guilty. The struggle reflects the massive scale of the in-

vestigation and the grueling work still ahead for authorities in the face of an increasing effort by some Republican lawmakers to rewrite what happened that day.

Among those who still haven't been caught: the person who planted two pipe bombs outside the offices of the Republican and Democratic national committees the night before the melee, as well as many people accused of attacks on law enforcement officers or violence and threats against journalists. The FBI website seeking information about those involved in the Capitol vio-

lence includes more than 900 pictures of roughly 300 people labeled "unidentified."

Part of the problem is that authorities made very few arrests on Jan. 6. They were focused instead on clearing the building of members of the massive mob that attacked police, damaged historic property and combed the halls for lawmakers they threatened to kill. Federal investigators have been forced to go back and hunt down participants.

The FBI has since received countless tips and pieces of digital media from the public.

Activists: Infrastructure bill must help climate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Climate activists and their Democratic allies in Congress are pressing with renewed urgency for huge investments to slow global warming, after a bipartisan infrastructure plan cut out some of President Joe Biden's key climate initiatives.

Supporters say a larger, Democratic-only package now being developed in Congress must meet Biden's promise to move the country toward carbon-free electricity, make America a global leader in electric vehicles and create millions of jobs in solar, wind and other clean-energy industries.

But passage of a larger, multi-trillion-dollar bill faces significant hurdles, even if Democrats use a procedural method that requires only a simple majority. It's

far from certain, in an evenly divided Senate, that moderate Democrats will agree to an expansive measure that could swell to as high as \$6 trillion.

On the other hand, a less costly bill that does not fully address climate change risks losing support from large numbers of liberal Democrats who have pledged action on an issue that Biden has called "the existential crisis of our times."

Elimination of climate measures in the bipartisan plan comes as the effects of climate change, like worsening disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires and drought, are increasing. Scientists urge immediate action to slash greenhouse emissions to avoid the worst consequences of global warming.

Even the bipartisan agreement

is not certain to pass a closely divided Congress. A framework announced June 24 by Biden and a bipartisan group of senators does not include legislative provisions, and many details need to be worked out.

The \$973 billion bipartisan deal includes money to build a national network of electric vehicle charging stations, purchase thousands of electric buses and upgrade the electrical grid. It also would spend \$55 billion to improve drinking water and wastewater systems and \$47 billion in resiliency efforts to tackle climate change.

But many climate-related proposals were cut out, including plans promoted by Biden to make electricity carbon-free by 2035 and spend hundreds of billions in tax incentives for clean energy

such as wind and solar power and technologies that capture and store carbon emissions.

In La Crosse, Wis., last week, Biden highlighted projects that would get more money from the bipartisan bill, such as hybrid buses and road repair equipment. And the White House says climate considerations will be a key part of a plan for infrastructure, jobs and education that would be determined solely by Democrats through a "budget reconciliation" process in Congress.

Activists say the bipartisan framework falls short on nearly every important climate commitment Biden laid out in his initial proposal in the spring, including energy upgrades for buildings, a Civilian Climate Corps and massive spending on environmental justice.

Dry conditions fueling multiple fires in Calif.

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—Hot and dry conditions in California are worrying fire and weather officials as crews work to contain multiple fires statewide.

As of Monday, the Tumbleweed fire in the Gorman area, which started over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, had burned 1,000 acres of brush and was only about 10% contained, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department. While the fire can be seen from Interstate 5, the department does not currently have plans to close the area. The fire has not damaged any structures, and no buildings appeared to be in danger, a department spokesman said.

"We're trying to increase that percentage of containment to make sure the fire doesn't advance or jump out of the area that it's already burned," Capt. Ron Haralson said.

Haralson said favorable

weather conditions allowed firefighters get a better handle on the fire overnight Monday. There were 200 fire personnel working the blaze. But Harrelson said there's still concern over temperatures increasing, especially since brush and other vegetation are "extremely dry."

The National Weather Service said warmer- and drier-than-usual conditions will continue in southwestern California this week, with even higher temperatures by week's end. The valleys and mountains could see highs up to 112 degrees by the weekend.

Brad Schaaf, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Medford, Ore., said there will be an increase in winds in the area in the next couple of days, but they will be accompanied by cooler weather after the last several days of highs in the upper 90s and low 100s. But Schaaf said the break will be short-lived.

Calif. inmate firefighter goes on joyride, gets hurt in crash

Los Angeles Times

An inmate firefighter stole a fire truck while fighting a vegetation fire in Gold Country outside Sacramento, Calif., and took it on a joyride before crashing and injuring himself, a fire official said Monday.

The 31-year-old inmate destroyed the fire engine when he drove it off the road and rammed it through a fence and into the lot of Rack-It Truck Racks in Shingle Springs, about 40 miles east of Sacramento, said Alisha Herring, spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He was working with Cal Fire's Amador-El Dorado unit and took the engine at about 12:40 a.m. Monday, two hours after the crew responded to the vegetation fire, Herring said.

The inmate was taken to a local hospital for injuries but is in good condition and expected to recover, said Terry Thornton, spokeswoman for the California Department of Corrections and

Rehabilitation. No other firefighters or civilians were injured.

Thornton said that the inmate's name is being withheld pending an investigation, but that he was admitted from Orange County in 2015.

He was one of more than 900 inmates deployed in 62 inmate firefighter crews trained and certified to serve on the fire line for blazes statewide under the direction of a fire captain, Herring said. Those crews, however, are expected to shrink as California prepares to shut down one of its main training facilities for inmate firefighters as part of Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to reduce the state's prison population, NBC News has reported.

"During the incident, significant damage was done to the engine as well as private and public property," Thornton said in a statement. Herring put the cost of replacing the fire engine at about \$280,000.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets rescued from abandoned stone cistern

PA READING — A man was rescued after at least three days at the bottom of an abandoned stone cistern near the landmark Reading Pagoda, authorities said.

The man was healthy enough to climb out on his own on a city fire department rope ladder, the Reading Eagle reported.

Second Deputy Fire Chief Michael Glore said the man, whose name wasn't released, had been reported missing and police started searching the area after finding his vehicle parked at the pagoda.

The city public works department was making arrangements to weld shut the opening.

Fire department swears in new 4-year-old recruit

GA MARIETTA — A Georgia fire department swore in a 4-year-old recruit, granting the wish of the cancer patient to be a firefighter.

WSB-TV reported the City of Marietta Fire Department teamed up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make Bubba Diedrich their youngest firefighter, at least for a day. The 4-year-old from Augusta was diagnosed with leukemia a year ago.

Fire Chief Tim Milligan said the foundation asked if the young cancer patient could ride on a truck or spray a fire hose.

Instead, the entire department suited the boy up and prepared a whole day of events for him, including the "rescue" of a plush stuffed animal trapped near a building.

Man jailed for running onto Old Faithful geyser

WY YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A 37-year-old Maine man was sentenced to 15 days in jail for running onto Yellowstone National Park's Old Faithful geyser multiple times while wearing a raccoon-skin hat and waving an American flag.

The Casper Star-Tribune reported the man pleaded guilty to trespassing, was fined \$200 and was banned from the park for the July 2020 stunt.

The man failed to appear at a court hearing soon after the incident, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was arrested in Maine on June 5 and entered his plea at the Yellowstone Justice Center in the park.

Rural county moves to name road after Trump

NV YERINGTON — A rural Nevada county where voters sided solidly with Republican President Donald Trump in the 2020 election is moving to rename a road after him.

Lyon County commissioners voted 4-1 for renaming the half-mile Old Dayton Valley Road in Dayton, an unincorporated community 23 miles south of Reno.

Commissioner Ken Gray, a Republican, told KRNVT-TV that Old Dayton Valley Road was chosen because only a few government facilities and no residents have addresses on the road, making the change easier.

County officials next will draft plans to make the change, which is subject to Planning Commission approval.

Veterinarians warn of outbreak of distemper

CA RIVERSIDE — Veterinarians and wildlife managers warned of an outbreak of distemper among young dogs and raccoons in inland Southern California.

In nearly all cases, the infected animals become severely ill and do not survive, despite aggressive treatment, the Southern California News Group reported.

An animal hospital in Murrieta has treated 15 to 20 dogs with canine distemper this year, said veterinarian Dr. Sarah Hoggan. In a typical year, the facility sees just one or two cases.

Meanwhile, the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Services Department has seen six raccoons with canine distemper in the past two months.

Woman arrested after 100 dead animals found

GA NICHOLLS — A southeast Georgia woman was arrested on animal cruelty charges after investigators said they found more than 100 dead dogs and cats on her property and a number of living animals in poor health.

Local news outlets reported that Bacon County sheriff's deputies arrested Terri Lynn Taylor and charged her with two counts of animal cruelty.

Bacon County Sheriff Andy Batten said at least 60 dead cats and at least 40 dead dogs were found on Taylor's property near Nicholls.

The sheriff's office said surviving animals are now in the care of Guardians of Rescue.

Portuguese man-of-war spotted at state beach

MA WESTPORT — State officials warned beachgoers that the venomous Portuguese man-of-war has been spotted in the waters off Horseneck Beach in Westport.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation warned the public of the sea creature's presence and said it has posted purple flags at the beach to indicate the presence of dangerous marine animals.

Its tentacles deliver venom capable of paralyzing and killing small fish. While rarely deadly to humans, it can cause painful welts on exposed skin.

4 in custody after chase, theft of TV news vehicle

NC RALEIGH — Authorities in North Carolina said four suspects were in custody after a manhunt that stretched across two days and involved the theft of a TV news vehicle.

The incident began after a state trooper started pursuing a vehicle for speeding in Chatham County, the News & Observer reported. That part of the pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle spun into a median and the individuals fled on foot.

Three of the suspects were taken into custody one day, and the fourth person was arrested the next day.

Several firearms were discovered during the investigation.

— From wire reports

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Canadiens avoid sweep in Cup Final

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Josh Anderson delivered in overtime, and Montreal killed Tampa Bay's chance for a Stanley Cup sweep.

Anderson said the Canadiens weren't done, and he was right — at least for one night.

The speedy winger scored his second goal 3:57 into overtime, and the Canadiens avoided elimination by defeating the defending champion Lightning 3-2 in Game 4 on Monday.

"We didn't want to end it tonight in front of our fans. We expected to go to Tampa tomorrow," Anderson said. "I think everybody in that locker room did, you know, packed our bags this afternoon."

The series shifts to Tampa Bay for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Carey Price stopped 32 shots for Montreal, and rookie defenseman Alexander Romanov also scored. The Canadiens also went 5-for-5 on the penalty kill, including a four-minute high-sticking penalty issued to captain Shea Weber with 1:01 remaining in regulation.

"Webby is our leader," forward Brendan Gallagher said. "I think we would have killed it for anyone, but he's been a rock

for us since he's come to our team."

Pat Maroon and Barclay Goodrow scored for Tampa Bay, and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 18 shots.

The Lightning are attempting to become the NHL's second team to win consecutive championships in the salary-cap era, which began in 2005. The Pittsburgh Penguins accomplished the feat with titles in 2016 and 2017.

Tampa Bay, which won the Cup last year by defeating Dallas in six games, is one resilient bunch, too. It is 13-0 over the past two playoffs when coming off a loss.

"Sometimes you play pretty good and it's a break here, a break there that just doesn't go your way. You just got to keep working through it," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "No hanging our heads but I liked a lot of things we did tonight."

Montreal became the first team to score in OT to avoid a sweep in the Stanley Cup Final since the Bruins did it in 1946 against the Canadiens, according to STATS.

The Canadiens also avoided becoming the first team to get swept in the final round since

Detroit won four straight over Washington to win the championship in 1998.

They drew some inspiration from Anderson, who provided his teammates with a rallying cry a day earlier when he said: "We're not finished yet."

"We understood the hole that we were in, but we just kind of talked about it: Find a way to win one game here," Gallagher said. "(Anderson) stepped up and scored a couple of big goals for us. It's going to be the same thing next game."

Interim coach Dominique Ducharme's lineup changes paid off, with Romanov stepping up in just his third career playoff game. Anderson was shifted to a new line, playing alongside Nick Suzuki and rookie Cole Caufield in Ducharme's bid to add more speed.

Anderson got his second career playoff overtime goal after he forced a turnover at the blue line and outraced Jan Rutta and Yanni Gourde to a loose puck along the left boards. He then directed the puck toward the net, where Caufield got a piece of it but pushed it wide.

Anderson jumped back in front and knocked the puck past

Vasilevskiy inside the left post. His follow-through put him on the ice, where he celebrated the goal while on his back.

Montreal was outscored 14-5 in the first three games, including a sloppy 6-3 loss in Game 3 on Friday.

The team got off to a better start Monday, thanks to Price stopping 12 shots in the opening period and Anderson converting Suzuki's centering pass at 15:39 for Montreal's first lead of the series.

Though Tampa Bay rallied twice to tie, the Canadiens never relinquished the lead.

The Lightning are 0-4 in OT this postseason, and 0-5 when giving up the first goal.

"We have confidence in the power play. We had some good looks throughout the game, but at the end of the day you want to bear down and score one there, but it didn't happen," said Tampa Bay defenseman Victor Hedman, who had a shot from the slot get a piece of Price's blocker and go off the left post during a power-play chance late in the second period. "That was a close game overall."

Montreal improved to 8-1 when facing elimination on home ice in the Final.

Playoff history remains on Tampa Bay's side

Associated Press

No team has been more resilient in the NHL playoffs than Andrei Vasilevskiy and the Tampa Bay Lightning, who have a knack for rebounding from losses and closing out opponents standing between them and a Stanley Cup title.

The defending champions are 14-0 in games following a postseason loss over the past two years, a playoff streak that includes six bounce-back wins this summer as the Lightning bid for a second consecutive championship.

Vasilevskiy not only has been the winning goaltender in all those victories, but has run off a string of four consecutive series-clinching shutouts dating to the 2020

Stanley Cup Final against the Dallas Stars.

Three of those stellar performances followed losses in potential elimination games, a situation Tampa Bay finds itself in again after Monday night's 3-2 overtime road loss to the Montreal Canadiens.

The defeat trimmed Montreal's series deficit to 3-1 in this year's final. Game 5 is Wednesday night in Tampa, Fla.

With Vasilevskiy's track record in not losing consecutive playoff games since the team was swept in the first round by the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2019, the Lightning understandably are confident of their chances to finish their mission.

"In the past, we've done a good job of leaving the previous game in the past if

we're coming off of a loss," center Barclay Goodrow said. "We have a great leadership group that gets our minds in the right spot."

The Lightning bounced back from an overtime loss to the Stars in Game 5 of last year's Final to clinch the series with a 2-0 victory in Game 6. That clincher came on the heels of eliminating the New York Islanders in six games after losing Game 5 in OT the previous round.

The Lightning also needed two cracks in the first round to eliminate the Florida Panthers in six games last month. They then ousted the Islanders in the Cup semifinals with a 1-0 shutout after losing Game 6 on the road in overtime.

'18 champ Kerber, 1st-timers reach semis

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — When Angelique Kerber grabbed the opening set of her Wimbledon quarterfinal, the full-capacity crowd saluted the accomplishment with cheers that bounced off the closed roof at No. 1 Court.

Kerber's reaction? Just a matter-of-fact, straight-faced stroll to the sideline. No shouts or leaps or fist pumps. Unlike the other women headed to the semifinals at the All England Club, this is

not new to her. Not at all. It's just that it's been a while.

The owner of three Grand Slam titles, including at Wimbledon in 2018, Kerber moved back into the final four at the grass-court major by using her knee-to-the-turf agility and quick reflexes to beat No. 19 seed Karolina Muchova 6-2, 6-3 on Tuesday.

"I really enjoy every moment here," Kerber told the packed house on the first day of 100% capacity in the two main stadiums after after COVID-19 restric-

tions placed a 50% cap on attendance when the fortnight began. "I'm so, so happy to be here again in the semis. That means a lot to me."

Kerber, a 33-year-old left-hander from Germany, goes up against No. 1 Ash Barty on Thursday. Barty beat Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1, 6-3 in the first all-Australian Grand Slam quarterfinal in 41 years.

Barty broke for a 5-3 lead in the second set and then served out the win with an ace. She fin-

ished with 23 winners to just five for Tomljanovic, who was playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Barty won the girls' singles title at Wimbledon in 2011 but had not been past the fourth round at the All England Club in four previous appearances.

Barty won the 2019 French Open, but neither she nor Tomljanovic ever had been to the quarterfinals at the All England Club.

The NBA Finals: 10 things to know

Associated Press

Make way for something new in the NBA Finals.

Milwaukee hasn't been to the NBA Finals since 1974 and Phoenix hasn't been to the NBA Finals since 1993, two stats that have been repeated so often over the last few days that the Bucks and Suns probably wouldn't mind if they don't hear them again for the next few decades.

But there is a whole lot of new in these NBA Finals. Consider:

■ It's the first time since 1998 that the Finals will be played without LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan or Dwyane Wade.

■ It's the first time since 1983 that nobody in the NBA Finals has been, or will be, a teammate of Shaquille O'Neal. You read that correctly. Every title series from 1984 through 2020 featured at least one player who had been (or would eventually be) teammates with O'Neal. Though there is one technicality at play here: Phoenix guard Chris Paul and O'Neal were All-Star Game teammates.

Paul's wait

Phoenix guard Chris Paul is in his 16th NBA season. This is his first Finals. He has played in 123 playoff games without ever reaching the Finals, the third-most in NBA history behind Paul Millsap (129) and Al Horford (124).

Calendar addition

Tuesday will mark the first time that an NBA Finals game has been played in July — which becomes the seventh month in which a title-round matchup will occur.

Other months that have seen Finals

games: March, April, May, June, September, and October.

Jordan comparison

Giannis Antetokounmpo averaged 40 points on 60% shooting in Milwaukee's two games against Phoenix this season. No player had averaged that, and shot that well, against the Suns in a single regular season since 1992-93 — when Chicago's Michael Jordan averaged 42 points on 60.3% shooting.

The Bulls ended up playing the Suns in that season's Finals, too.

Divisions matter

Milwaukee won the Central Division and Phoenix won the Pacific Division this season.

That means this will be the 10th consecutive season where a division champion will win the NBA title. The last division non-winner to end up as NBA champion was Dallas in 2011. Every team that made the Finals since did so after winning a division crown.

Late nights?

NBA Finals games typically start late; most in this series will tip off shortly after 9 p.m. in the Eastern time zone, so they tend to finish around 11:30 p.m.

There have been two triple-overtime games in NBA Finals history — and Phoenix has played in both. They lost to Boston 128-126 on June 4, 1976, and defeated Chicago 129-121 on June 13, 1993.

3 over 2

Since the NBA went to the current playoff format in 1984, there have been three instances of a No. 3 seed from one conference

taking on the No. 2 seed from the other conference in the NBA Finals. (This will be the fourth; Milwaukee was seeded No. 3 in the East, Phoenix No. 2 in the West.)

In all three of the previous 3-versus-2 Finals matchups, the No. 3 seed won the NBA title: Detroit over the Los Angeles Lakers in 2004, San Antonio over Cleveland in 2007 and Dallas over Miami in 2011.

Finals families

Jrue Holiday doesn't know what it's like to play in the NBA Finals. Same goes for Giannis Antetokounmpo and Thanasis Antetokounmpo. In fact, no player in this series — except for Phoenix's Jae Crowder — has logged a single second in a Finals game.

Justin Holiday, Jrue's brother, played in a game with Golden State during the 2015 Finals. And Kostas Antetokounmpo — Giannis' and Thanasis' brother — won a ring with the Lakers last season but didn't play in the title series against Miami.

Out front

Milwaukee and Phoenix have been pretty much unbeatable in these playoffs when either club gets a lead of at least 10 points. The Suns are 11-0 in the playoffs in games where they've had a double-digit lead; the Bucks are 10-1.

Rising Suns

If the Suns lead this series at any time, the franchise will have a winning postseason record again for the first time since May 18, 1995 — when they were 86-85 in their all-time playoff history.

The Bucks haven't had a winning postseason record since May 26, 2001, when they were 96-95.

Mets win matchup of NL leaders

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pete Alonso pulled into second base and wind-milled his big arm — a little air guitar on center stage at Citi Field.

Halfway through an injury-riddled season, the New York Mets keep hitting the right notes.

Alonso broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run double off All-Star Brandon Woodruff, and the Mets beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4-2 on Monday night in a matchup of National League division leaders.

"I like the way we've played the entire season," New York manager Luis Rojas said. "I think we've just been consistent."

Red Sox 5, Angels 4: Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, and visiting Boston retired Shohei Ohtani on a grounder to right field with two Los Angeles players on base for the final out.

Christian Arroyo also homered for the AL-leading Red Sox, who held Ohtani to a single on his 27th birthday.

Cardinals 5, Giants 3: Kwang Hyun Kim pitched seven scoreless innings, Matt Carpenter hit a two-run triple in the seventh

for the first runs of the game and visiting St. Louis snapped San Francisco's three-game winning streak.

Donovan Solano and Steven Duggar hit RBI singles in the ninth against Alex Reyes, but San Francisco's comeback bid fell short.

Nationals 7, Padres 5: Josh Bell hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning and All-Star Trea Turner also connected as visiting Washington beat San Diego and snapped a four-game losing streak.

Bell and Alcides Escobar had three hits apiece for the Nationals, who rebounded after being swept in four games at home by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pirates 11, Braves 1: Ben Gamel homered twice and drove in six runs to lead host Pittsburgh past Atlanta.

Gamel took Max Fried (5-5) over the fence in center field for a two-run home run in the fourth, doubled home Bryan Reynolds in the sixth and added a three-run shot in the seventh as the Pirates won their second straight following a six-game losing streak.

Marlins 5, Dodgers 4: Jorge Alfaro hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and host

Miami ended Los Angeles' nine-game winning streak.

Alfaro drove a slider from Dodgers reliever Victor González (3-1) to center field for his third homer of the season.

Twins 8, White Sox 5: Rookie Bailey Ober pitched five scoreless innings for his first major league victory, Max Kepler homered twice and host Minnesota held off Chicago.

Ober (1-1) hit the milestone in his seventh career start, with seven strikeouts and two hits and three walks allowed.

Rays 9, Indians 8: Brandon Lowe hit his first career grand slam in the second inning, and host Tampa Bay rallied with two runs in the ninth to beat Cleveland.

Manuel Margot had four hits before leaving the game after appearing to hurt his leg in the ninth.

Franmil Reyes homered and drove in five runs for the Indians, who have lost seven straight.

Phillies 13, Cubs 3: Odúbel Herrera hit a three-run homer, and visiting Philadelphia went deep five times while handing Chicago its 10th straight loss.

Andrew Knapp, Didi Gregorius, Rhys Hoskins and Alec

Bohm also homered.

The Cubs remained winless since Zach Davies and three relievers combined to no-hit the Dodgers on June 24.

Herrera's drive against reliever Kohl Stewart capped a six-run eighth that broke open a 4-2 game.

Tigers 7, Rangers 3: Wily Peralta threw seven scoreless innings in his longest big league outing since 2016 and visiting Detroit beat Texas.

Zack Short homered for the Tigers, who have won three in a row and five of six. Former Rangers outfielder Nomar Mazara twice drove in a run without a hit.

Peralta (2-1), back in the majors only three weeks, struck out six without a walk while throwing 61 of 91 pitches for strikes.

Reds 6, Royals 2: Eugenio Suarez hit a tiebreaking three-run home run shortly after Nick Castellanos hit a tying solo shot and visiting Cincinnati beat Kansas City for its fifth straight win.

Vladimir Gutierrez (4-3) went six innings and gave up two runs, five hits and two walks with six strikeouts.

College-bound Olympic gymnasts now can cash in

Associated Press

Maggie Nichols just laughs when asked if she plans on asking Under Armour where her check is.

"I should, right?" the retired two-time world championship medalist and two-time NCAA all-around champion said.

Nichols is kidding. Well, mostly. She didn't complain when the athletic apparel giant approached her in 2016 about appearing in an ad that also featured Madison Kocian and McKayla Skinner.

Despite being high-profile elite gymnasts with world championship gold medals on their résumés, they were amateurs at the time the spot was filmed. Taking money would have technically made them professionals and jeopardized the college scholarships that awaited them once the 2016 Olympic cycle was complete.

So they hung out. They were treated like movie stars for a few days. And they didn't receive a dime. It was good exposure. It was good fun. Looking back, though, Nichols isn't sure that it was a good call.

"It's upsetting because there was a lot of money involved," she said. "We made sure it was OK with NCAA. We were told we could do it if we were not paid, if we didn't receive any clothing."

So they didn't. And while the 23-year-old has zero regrets about her decision to go to school after not being selected for the 2016 U.S. Olympic team, the NCAA's decision this week to al-

low college athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness left her shaking her head a bit.

"Me and Madison were kind of talking earlier (this week) how we wished that would have been passed earlier, kind of thinking the what-ifs, the opportunities we had to pass down because of the rules," said Nichols, who retired from gymnastics a year ago and is now in graduate school at Oklahoma. "It does kind of stink that it did get passed and we missed out on it."

Nichols' experience symbolized the decadeslong push-pull for high-level teenage athletes in Olympic sports, particularly in women's gymnastics, where many (but certainly not all) elite careers peak before their 20th birthday.